

520-526 South Meyer Avenue  
Barrio Libre (Barrio Histórico)  
Tucson  
Pima County  
Arizona

HABS No. AZ-73-34

HABS

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20243

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

BARRIO LIBRE (Barrio Histórico)

520-526 SOUTH MEYER AVENUE

HABS No. AZ-73-34

Location: 520-526 S. Meyer Ave., Tucson, Pima County, Arizona.

USGS Tucson Quadrangle, Universal Transverse  
Mercator Coordinates: 12.502680 .3563970

Present Owner: #520-522, Carlos G. Robles #524-526, Joaquina Kengla  
38 W. Church Ave. 633 N. 2nd Ave.  
Tucson, AZ 85701 Tucson, AZ 85705

Present Occupants: #522- George Johnson #520, 524- Vacant  
#526- Elmer Sprout

Present Use: Residential; apartments.

Significance: These adobe apartments, though situated on the same parcel of property, are actually two separate but adjoining structures, each housing two dwellings. The structure to the south is a flat-roofed Sonoran building with a brick coping, while the adjoining building is a shed-roofed, irregularly shaped structure. The row of flush-fronted apartments continues the rhythm of long apartment blocks extending north up S. Meyer Avenue, while the shed roof breaks the continuous line of parallel rooflines.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1900-1902.
2. Architect: None known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: See chain of title below.

Block 242, Lot 18.

1900 Deed, July 24, 1900, recorded in Volume 31, page 520.  
C. F. Schumacher to Pedro Martínez.

1902 Deed, May 1, 1902, recorded in Volume 32, page 771.  
Treasurer and Tax Collector to Lewis G. Davis.

1903 Deed, January 13, 1903, recorded in Volume 34, page 330.  
L. G. Davis to Pedro Martínez.

- 1918 Deed, August 12, 1918, recorded in Volume 67, page 310.  
Estate of Pedro Martínez to Concepción Martínez.
- 1925 Deed, October 10, 1925, recorded in Volume 103, page 534.  
Concepción Martínez to Francisco A. Martínez.
- 1927 Deed, June 3, 1927, recorded in Volume 118, page 192.  
Francisco A. Martínez to Andres Herreras.
- 1928 Deed, July 9, 1928, recorded in Volume 124, page 532.  
Francisco A. Martínez to Andres Herreras.
- 1937 Deed, December 4, 1937, recorded in Volume 209, page 383.  
Andres and Margarita Herreras to Bérnabe Robles.
- 1946 Deed, May 25, 1946, recorded in Volume 298, page 465.  
Margarita C. Herreras vs. Andres M. Herreras.
- 1952 Deed, August 2, 1952, recorded in Volume 494, page 213.  
Bérnabe S. Robles et al to Fernando A. Robles.
- 1954 Deed, June 2, 1954, recorded in Volume 720, page 160.  
Bérnabe S. Robles et al to Joaquina R. Kengla.

4. Builder: Manuel and Pedro Martínez, it is thought.

5. Alterations and additions: Of the two structures, the shed-roofed building was probably built first. Because of their dissimilar sizes and shapes it is unlikely that the two buildings were constructed together. Neither has undergone significant exterior modifications since they were built.

B. Historical Persons and Events Connected with the Structure:

Pedro and Manuel Martínez, both tinsmiths, and Francisco Martínez, a carpenter, are the probable builders of these dwellings. The Martínez family is associated with this property both through ownership and occupancy records from 1900-1928. Pedro Martínez and his wife, Concepción, had a daughter, Julia, who married Feliciano Fimbres. Fimbres and his wife lived in the apartments next door (506 S. Meyer), before building their residence across the street, at 509 S. Meyer Ave. The property next passed to the Herreras family, who owned property to the south of the block, and ten years later fell into the hands of Bérnabe Robles. A number of short-term, Spanish-surnamed, working-class tenants have occupied these apartments since 1920.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION (See Significance, above, and Barrio Libre (Barrio Histórico) (HABS No. AZ-73) for site plan and historical background essay).

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps, 1909, 1914, 1919, 1948.  
Tract Books, Pioneer National Title Insurance Company (Microfilm, Recorder's records).

Tucson City Directories, 1897-1979.

Oral Interviews:

Felix Fimbres, 462 E. 31st Street.

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Historic American Buildings Survey  
September 1980

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service's National Architectural and Engineering Record (NAER) in cooperation with the Tucson Barrio Association, Inc. Funds for the project were provided by the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office and the Arizona State Office of Economic Planning and Development. Under the direction of Robert Kapsch, Chief of NAER, John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect, the project was completed during the summer of 1980 at the HABS field office in Tucson, Arizona, by Robert C. Giebner, Project Supervisor (Professor of Architecture, University of Arizona); William Joseph Graham, Project Foreman (University of Maryland); Ann E. Huston, Project Historian (California State University, Sacramento); Maureen L. Gerhold, Assistant Historian (Pennsylvania State University); Student Architects Scott Marshall Dolph (University of Arizona); Carol Jean Lemon (Washington State University); and Harrison Adam Sutphin (Virginia Tech); and Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) Summer Youth Employment Program Interns: Maria Arriola (Tucson High School); Ernest Cota; Lupita Lopez (Tucson High School); and Anna Trinidad. Photographic records were made for HABS by David J. Kaminsky, Photographer, Roswell, New Mexico. Editing and final preparation of the documentation was carried out in 1981 in the HABS Washington Office by William Joseph Graham, Architect, and Lucy Pope Wheeler, Writer/Editor, of the HABS professional staff.

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